

Provisional Amendments to the Claims

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Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for measuring catalytic activity of a test aliquot, comprising the steps of:

distributing the test aliquot into a separation medium, wherein the test aliquot includes ~~one~~ two or more macromolecular fragments resulting from the catalytic activity;

enabling said ~~one~~ two or more fragments to separate within said separation medium;

digitizing an image of said ~~one~~ two or more fragments to measure intensity values for each fragment from said image;

processing said intensity values to derive a fragment population model of said ~~one~~ two or more fragments; and

analyzing said fragment population model to determine a catalytic result.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said distributing step comprises the step of:

distributing the test aliquot among a plurality of reaction wells within the separation medium, wherein said processing step comprises placing said intensity values

into intensity profiles, each intensity profile representing ~~one~~ two or more fragments from a corresponding reaction well.

Claim 3 (original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

removing an intensity value lying outside of a prescribed range; and
refitting said intensity profiles in response to said removing step.

Claim 4 (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

calculating intensity ratios, wherein each intensity ratio is derived from an intensity value from each of two specified fragments, wherein said intensity ratios are used to determine said catalytic result.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein said catalytic result is derived from~~ further comprising the step of:

deriving an effective dilution factor for predicting complete digestion of a fragment, said effective dilution factor providing a basis for analyzing said fragment population model to determine said catalytic result.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining a unit call for ~~complete digestion of a fragment~~ said catalytic
result.

Claim 7 (original) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step
of:

determining a calibration factor for adjusting said catalytic result used to
determine said unit call.

Claim 8 (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, further
comprising the step of:

staining the test aliquot with a reporter molecule prior to said digitizing an
image step.

Claim 9 (previously amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the test
aliquot is not de-stained prior to said digitizing an image step.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said
macromolecular fragments comprise at least one of DNA fragments and RNA fragments,
and wherein said enabling step comprises the step of:

performing electrophoretic separation to resolve said at least one of DNA
fragments and RNA fragments.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein said distributing step comprises~~ further comprising the step of:

transferring a diluted enzyme concentration to one or more reaction chambers to digest a DNA substrate disposed in each reaction chamber, wherein said ~~one~~ two or more macromolecular fragments result from the digestion of said DNA substrate.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A method according to claim 11, ~~wherein said distributing step further comprises~~ further comprising the steps of:

apportioning a buffer solution among a dilution matrix having multiple pre-dilution tubes and multiple dilution tubes;

depositing an enzyme sample into said pre-dilution tubes to produce an enzyme concentration; and

transferring portions of said enzyme concentration from said pre-dilution tubes to said dilution tubes to produce said diluted enzyme concentration.

Claims 13-24 (withdrawn).